



Date: April 4, 2006

To: Paula J. Hammond, Chief of Staff

From: Kathleen B. Davis, Director  
Highways & Local Programs Division (H&LP)

Subject: H&LP March 2006 Supplemental Alert

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## **OPERATIONAL ITEMS**

### **57<sup>th</sup> Annual Road Builders' Clinic**

Staff participated in the 57th Annual Road Builders' Clinic held February 28<sup>th</sup> to March 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho. Staff presented information on federal legislation regarding safety requirements, low-cost safety improvements and funding, and answering questions on how H&LP assists local agencies within Washington. We also handed out information from our booth to conference participants and attended technical sessions.

### **National Bike Summit and Safe Routes to School State Coordinators**

**Orientation** On March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, Charlotte Claybrooke, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, went to Washington D.C. to participate in the National Bike Summit and the Safe Routes to School State Coordinators Orientation. The purpose was to participate in the meeting discussions, present information about the WSDOT's Safe Routes to School Program, and to obtain information about federal funding, current research, and other related issues.

### **Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Conference**

WSDOT presented information on the implementation of Context Sensitive Solutions within the agency at both the panel and roundtable sessions entitled: "Agency Challenges in Integrating Context Sensitive Solutions" at the ITE 2006 Technical Conference and Exhibit in San Antonio, Texas.

### **GMA Amendments Forums Held**

Almost 150 people attended two forums in Seattle and Spokane in conjunction with the RTPs to get guidance about the new amendments to the Growth Management Act as it relates to bicycle and pedestrian plans and livable communities. The Keynote speaker was Ian Lockwood from Glatting Jackson in Orlando who described several cases where cities were transformed by reducing the number of traffic lanes and providing more opportunities for walking and cycling. The audiences consisted of local planners, public works officials, public health officials, and bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups. Smaller follow-up sessions are being arranged through other RTPs later this spring.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### **More than \$800,000 in Federal Scenic Byway Funds Awarded Statewide**

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, US Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta announced the selection of six projects from across Washington to receive a total of \$815,256 in grants from the Federal Highway's National Scenic Byways Program. The Washington byways receiving funding are:

- **North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway** – more than \$189,000 for “The River and the Road Implementation,” a project completing 3 of 7 interpretive sites along the byway.
- **Coulee Corridor** – nearly \$166,000 for phase 2 of the “Byway Facilities & Interpretive Improvements” project that provides signage, community kiosks, and interpretive panels on byway sites.
- **Pacific Coast Scenic Byway** – \$278,000 for the “Olympic Coastal Corridor Visitor Center” project to help construct a visitor/interpretive facility with restrooms.
- **Palouse Scenic Byway** – more than \$112,000 for a “Byway Facility Implementation” to provide for interpretive planning of byway sites and design for a visitor center.
- **Mountains to Sound Greenway** – \$45,000 for a “Wayside Exhibits Project” that will design a traveler information and interpretive kiosk, and \$25,000 for the “Implementation of Corridor Management Plan (Year 2)” to help sustain effective communications and coordination in byway organizations.

The Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program recognizes the selected roads for their scenic, natural, recreational, historic, cultural, or archaeological qualities. Since 1992, Washington State has received over \$13 million for projects on scenic byways. The grants will be used for projects such as corridor management plans; interpretive trails, kiosks, and signage; visitor information centers, bike and pedestrian trails; safety upgrades; resource protection and educational and promotional materials.

### **Seattle Interurban Trail Ribbon Cutting**

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, Harry Haslam of WSDOT's Northwest Region Local Programs office attended ribbon cutting ceremonies for the City of Seattle's recently completed Interurban Trail project. Speakers included Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, who emceed the ceremonies; Karen Richter of Puget Sound Regional Council, who presented the Mayor with a plaque; Kirk McKinley of the City of Shoreline, who discussed the City's progress on its Interurban Trail components to the north; Council members Jan Drago and Richard Conlin, who praised Seattle for a job well done; and Harry Haslam, who acknowledged Seattle as a front runner in constructing trails.



Following the ceremony (and refreshments), members of the Cascade Bicycle Club and other attendees walked or rode the new trail.

The project constructed a new one-mile long section of a 12-foot wide asphalt trail with gravel shoulders from North 110th Street to North 128th Street in North Seattle. Work also included landscaping, fencing, drainage improvements, signing, and ADA compliant curb ramps and crosswalks at street intersections. The trail is part of an evolving regional trail system, which when completed will extend from Seattle to Everett. The trail follows the old Seattle-Everett Interurban Railway route, which operated between 1910 and 1939. WSDOT administered \$1.045 million for this project.

### **East Lake Sammamish Trail Opening**

On Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>, WSDOT Northwest Region Local Programs Engineer Ed Conyers attended a celebration of the opening of the East Lake Sammamish Trail. This phase of the project constructed a gravel interim trail along eleven miles of abandoned railroad right of way along the east shore of Lake Sammamish. The King County led project begins in Issaquah, passes through Sammamish, and ends in Redmond where it connects to the Sammamish River Trail. This will result in a continuous trail system from Issaquah, around Lake Washington, to Ballard. A future phase will construct a permanent paved trail.

Speakers at the celebration included King County Executive Ron Sims, Mayor Michelle Petitti of Sammamish, King County Council President Larry Phillips, Cascade Land Conservancy President Gene Duvenoy, Washington Forest Law Center Director Peter Goldman, and Bente Pasko of the ELST Citizens Advisory Group. WSDOT administered \$1.36 million in federal funds on this project.



### **City of Yelm 103<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Improvement Project Ribbon Cutting**

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, Brian Moorehead, of WSDOT's Olympic Region Local Programs office, attended the City of Yelm's 103<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Improvement Project ribbon cutting. This project is an important part of their continuing effort to complete a grid network, giving the local area traffic an alternate to using the State Route that runs through town. WSDOT administered \$650,000 of funding for this project.



Paula J. Hammond  
March 2006 Supplemental  
April 1, 2006  
Page 4

### **Section 7 Consultations with NOAA Fisheries and USFWS**

The following table outlines the progress of Local Programs' Section 7 consultations, under the Endangered Species Act, with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, for the month of March 2006.

<b>Review Period: 2/28 through 3/27</b>		
	<b>USFWS</b>	<b>NOAA FISHERIES</b>
Total # of consultations completed	0	0
Total # of projects awaiting review	7	11
(# of formal consultations)	1	1
Total # of projects that are past their target completion date	2	6

### **Construction Activity for Local Agency Federal-Aid Projects**

The following table identifies local federal-aid projects that have been awarded during March 2006, as well as those projects currently active.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Projects Awarded</b>	<b>Active Construction Projects</b>
Northwest	2	168
North Central	0	25
Olympic	3	93
Southwest	0	72
South Central	2	85
Eastern	3	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>541</b>

KBD:sas

cc: WSDOT Executive List  
Regional Administrators  
MPOs/RTPOs  
CRAB  
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